



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, CAMP BULLIS TRAINING SITE
RR 2, BUILDING 5000
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78257



MCCS-BCB

20 January 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL THOSE CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum No. 21 – Camp Bullis Inclement Weather Policy

1. Risk Management is the overriding safety policy adopted by this command. In addition to an active risk reduction program within each unit and under each commander's responsibility, units will comply with the following guidelines concerning inclement weather conditions at Camp Bullis.
2. Military Police will make the decision on when to close and open roads during any inclement weather. Neither any unit commander nor Range Control will make the decision to go around barricades without clearance from the Military Police. Military Police may make decisions to allow different classes of vehicles (POV, 4WD, Tactical, etc.) access to certain roads. Range Control will enforce those decisions.
3. The Camp Bullis Fire Department will maintain high water rescue equipment. Due to the extended distances and travel time between the Fire Department and possible flooded training areas, each unit will avoid flash flood waters and flooding conditions if at all possible.
4. Units training at Camp Bullis will make become familiar with alternate routes to and from their training areas and off Camp Bullis. The Blanco Road North and South gate may be available as an alternate egress from field sites.
5. Range Control will offer its assistance to units that may be caught in the field in hazardous conditions. All Range Controllers must be familiar with the general Camp Bullis layout in order to be able to offer appropriate assistance. Range Control will monitor weather conditions for the training areas. This does not relieve training units from being aware of changing conditions in their specific training areas.
6. Hazardous weather.
 - a. **Lightning.** Lightning is the second rated cause of weather deaths in the U.S. All personnel working and training at Camp Bullis will comply with the 30-30 Rule.

The 30-30 Rule:

Use the 30-30 rule where visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the thunderstorm. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of you and is dangerous - Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues for a much longer period than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer. The determining factor on whether a particular flash could be deadly depends on whether a person is in the path of the lightning discharge. In addition to the visible flash that travels through the air, the current associated with the lightning discharge travels along the ground. Although some victims are struck directly by the main lightning stroke, *many victims are struck as the current moves in and along the ground*. While virtually all people take some protective actions during the most dangerous part of thunderstorms, many leave themselves vulnerable to being struck by lightning as thunderstorms approach, depart, or are nearby.

Lightning Safety Rules

Watch for environmental clues, such as increasing wind, flashes of lightning, sounds of thunder, darkening skies, and AM radio static.

Avoid being the tallest object.

Do not stand under or near an isolated tree or small group of trees.

When outdoors, get inside a sturdy structure before the storm approaches.

Unplug all *unnecessary* appliances **BEFORE** the storm approaches.

DO NOT use a wired telephone during the storm, unless it's an emergency!

Don't stand by open windows, doors, or patios during a thunderstorm.

Get out of boats and away from water.

If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard topped vehicle and keep the windows up. The rubber tires **DO NOT** protect you, it's the roof.

Do not take a bath or shower during a storm.

If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stands on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and be sure to minimize your contact with the ground!

DO NOT PLACE STUDENTS ON METAL BLEACHERS OR UNDER METAL COVERED TRAINING AREAS DURING A THUNDERSTORM.

Radio operation is the number one risk for military personnel in a thunderstorm.

b. **Floods.** Floods and flash flooding are the number one cause of weather related deaths in the U.S. No personnel will cross a flooded road where water is flowing. No personnel will go around barricades without clearance from the Camp Bullis Military Police.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **Turn Around Don't Drown™**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

Flood Safety Guidelines

There are several actions you can take to reduce your risk during flooding conditions, including:

Know the flood warning procedures.

Plan escape routes to high ground.

During times of heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water in the drainage way. Stay tuned to radio for possible flash flood and flood warnings and watches. Range Control will report flood watches and warnings.

Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised by the Military Police, Range Control, or Fire Department. Camp Bullis MPs have overriding authority in case of flooding.

DO NOT drive into any area where the road is not visible, even if water is not flowing.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.

Do not drive around road barriers. The road or bridge may be washed out. No one but Camp Bullis MPs may authorize an exception to their barricades.

Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer, after drowning, is electrocution. Electrical currents can travel through water. Report downed power lines to Range Control. Range Control will report to Public Works and Fire Department (911).

If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it at once and seek higher ground.

Keep all personnel away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Currents can be deceptive. Less than six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

Be especially cautious at night.

Use the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) web page for more information on weather safety. <http://www.noaa.gov>



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